



Navy Chief Petty Officer Shakara Lawrence shakes hands with Army veteran Alfred Torres at his home in Linda Vista. Lawrence was helping to make deliveries for Meals on Wheels, many of whose recipients are veterans.

HOWARD LIPIN U-T

Veterans Day deliveries refresh military bonds

Some active-duty troops spend day off making rounds for vets, Meals on Wheels

BY PETER ROWE

Alfred Torres and the four guests at his Linda Vista apartment Friday presented a study in contrasts.

They were young, tall, dressed in crisp military uniforms. He's 93, stooped and wearing a pullover sweatshirt, khaki pants and canvas slip-ons.

They are all Navy chief petty officers. Torres is a veteran, but his service came in another era and in another branch of the armed forces.

The differences were obvious. Yet his guests insisted the bond is much stronger.

"It's an invisible brotherhood," said Chief David Carreon. "He's Army and we're Navy. But he served for us."

These bonds, noted Debbie Case — president and CEO of Meals on Wheels, San Diego



HOWARD LIPIN U-T

Torres, drafted in 1942, earned many medals during his time in the Army, including the Bronze Star.

County — are often highlighted around Veterans Day. But they are essential year-round.

"Forty-two percent of our clients are veterans or the spouses of veterans," Case said.

This is a two-way link. While many veterans receive this non-profit's services, many active duty military are among the

3,200 volunteers who make the deliveries.

"We've been working with Meals on Wheels for two years now," said one of Torres' visitors, Senior Chief Tyson Porter.

These men and women in uniform bring meals to nonveterans as well as veterans. But there's something special about caring for older comrades in arms, especially around Veterans Day.

"Veterans are the reason why we are here," Porter said.

A few weeks ago, Meals on Wheels contacted Porter. Would he and his unit be willing to devote a day off to delivering meals?

For Porter, the answer was obvious: "I quickly said yes."

'Happy Veterans Day!'
About 10 a.m., the four military volunteers arrived at Torres' home. SEE **BONDS • A10**

TRUMP PITCHES 'AMERICA FIRST' POLICY

11 nations agree to proceed with Pacific trade agreement

BY JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS & MARK LANDLER

DANANG, Vietnam

President Donald Trump on Friday vowed to protect U.S. interests against foreign exploitation, preaching a unilateralist approach to a group of leaders who once pinned their economic hopes on a regional trade pact led by the United States.

"We are not going to let the United States be taken advantage of anymore," Trump told business leaders at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Danang, Vietnam. "I am always going to put America first, the same way that I expect all of you in this room to put your countries first."

But taking the stage at the same meeting immediately after Trump, President Xi Jinping of China delivered a sharply contrasting message, championing more robust engagement with the world. Xi used his own speech to make a spirited defense of globalization, saying relations among countries should be "more open, more inclusive, more balanced, more equitable and more beneficial to all."

Trump's remarks were seen as hostile for an audience that included leaders who had supported the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a sweeping 12-nation accord that was to be led by the United States, from which Trump withdrew immediately after taking office.

SEE **TRADE • A8**

BORDER, ICE AGENCIES LAG IN REPLACING DEPARTURES

Two reports cite obstacles to meeting ambitious hiring goals

BY GREG MORAN

Two new reports from government watchdog agencies say the Border Patrol is losing more agents per year faster than it can hire new ones, and that border and immigration enforcement agencies face "significant challenges" in hiring and training new personnel.

The reports from the Inspector General for Homeland Security department and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) were released separately over the past week. Yet both highlight the difficulties that federal agencies have filling the ambitious hiring goals laid out by President Donald Trump.

In a January executive order Trump called for hiring 5,000 more Border Patrol agents, and 10,000 officers with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Both are key components of the administration's crackdown on illegal immigration and desire to bulk up border security.

The GAO report examined how the Border Patrol is replacing departing agents. SEE **BORDER • A6**

LOUIS C.K. ADMITS INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Industry ends deals, cuts ties after comic issues public statement

BY DAVE ITZKOFF



Louis C.K. issued a public statement Friday about his conduct.

Comedian Louis C.K. admitted Friday that he had engaged in sexual misconduct with several women. His acknowledgment came as a film distributor canceled the release of his forthcoming

ing comedy and as media companies cut ties with him in response to a New York Times report in which the women detailed his behavior toward them.

In a statement Friday, Louis C.K. said, "I want to address the stories told to The New York Times by five women named Abby, Rebecca, Dana, Julia who felt able to name themselves and one who did not."

He continued, "These stories are true."

In the Times report, comedians Dana Min Goodman, Julia Wolow and Rebecca Corry, writer Abby Schachner, and a fifth woman who spoke on the condition of

anonymity described upsetting interactions with Louis C.K. in which he undressed and performed a sex act in front of them, asked if he could perform a sex act in front of them, or could be heard doing so during a telephone call.

Louis C.K. said in his statement that he told himself "what I

SEE **MISCONDUCT • A12**

■ **A12 •** Olympic gymnast Aly Raisman says she was sexually abused by former team doctor.

PROBES OF TWO ACCIDENTS ON LITTORAL SHIPS SHOW VERY DIFFERENT FACES OF FLEET

BY CARL PRINE

Two Navy probes detailing separate 2016 mishaps involving the San Diego-based littoral combat ships Freedom and Montgomery paint different portraits of leadership and crew competence.

While Panama Canal pilots caused the damage to the Montgomery in a pair of Oct. 29, 2016, incidents inside the tight locks, the Freedom's wounds three months earlier were largely self-inflicted and entirely avoidable, according to the investigative reports released Thursday to The San Diego Union-Tribune.

What began as a simple leak detected on July 11, 2016, in the Freedom's fire suppression system cascaded into a weeklong series of glitches that eventually destroyed a diesel engine — all of it exacerbated by lax shipboard standards, crew incompetence, poor leadership and the faulty input of outside experts who should have known better, the report determined.

Launched in 2006, the \$670.4 steel-hulled Freedom was the lead vessel in a futuristic fleet of nimble warships, but the program was plagued by cost overruns, design flaws, maintenance glitches and command snafus.

The program's problems were hardly improved by the destruction from the Freedom's mishap off the coast of Southern California during Rim of the Pacific war games.

Held every two years near Hawaii, "RIMPAC" is the world's largest multinational maritime exercise. SEE **LITTORAL • A14**

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